

Budget Issue Paper – Solid Waste Disposal

In November 2001, City Council adopted a resolution to close the White Street Landfill to municipal solid waste and directed staff to develop plans for the construction and operation of a transfer station for the disposal of municipal solid waste. The proposed facility will have a projected through-put of 225,000 tons of municipal solid waste per year. Under the proposal presented to City Council in late 2002, the White Street Landfill will remain open to construction and demolition debris, as well as composting, yard waste and land clearing debris. To facilitate the continued use of the White Street facility, staff has proposed and received approval to extend Cone Boulevard to a newly constructed connector street from the White Street Landfill as it intersects with Nealtown Road. Construction on both of these projects is scheduled to begin in the winter of 2005.

The costs associated with the transfer station will be significantly higher than the current solid waste disposal budget due to the combined loss of revenue at the White Street facility and the additional costs of transporting and depositing our waste in an out-of-county landfill. The loss of revenue at the White Street facility is likely to begin before the opening of the City's transfer station due to Republic Waste's (one of our largest customers) decision to take their waste to a nearby and privately owned transfer station sometime in 2004.

The estimated annual net expenditure for operation of the proposed transfer station (including debt service on construction) is approximately \$5.7 million per year. There are several options for funding the additional costs. If covered by residential collection fees alone, fees for residential service could rise from the current \$5.00 per month to \$13.00 per month. If funded through property tax, the property tax rate increase needed would be approximately 3 cents.

Estimated Timeline –

- Environmental Assessment Complete – January 2004
- Begin Final Negotiations to Determine a Provider for Waste Hauling and Disposal – January 2004
- Construction Permit Received from DENR – April 2004
- Construct facility – April 2004 to October 2004/January 2005
- Begin operations – November 2004/February 2005